

International Intelligence

Major drug network dismantled in France

After a two-year investigation, the judicial police of Lyon, France have dismantled a three-way drug network made up principally of former "French connection" figures. Some high-society names have turned up in the course of parallel investigations.

The network centered around a former sewing teacher, 52-year-old Rolande Kienlen. Police, acting on information obtained in the summer of 1985, had her under surveillance for a year, and arrested her in June 1986. They discovered that, since her first arrest a decade earlier, she had spent most of her time flying between the United States, Spain, and India, her supply source.

Police were able to identify three branches of the drug trade. The first, which functioned for more than 10 years, was run by veterans of the Indochina war who had played roles in the "French connection." They smuggled cocaine and Thai heroin into France via Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Following these leads, police discovered Parisian dealers with very interesting address books, including some 100 Paris high-society names who were kept supplied with cocaine: writers like Françoise Sagan, journalists like Thierry Ardisson of *La Cinq*, "artists" like Laura Picasso, ex-wife of the famous painter's grandson.

The second branch was run by a German, Klaus Roder (43), a fugitive residing in Thailand who also ran Thai heroin into Europe and the United States.

The third network was directed by a French woman, Nicole Guigou de Almeida, 55, called "Lola," who smuggled nearly a ton of hashish from Morocco and Lebanon via Spain.

Foreign secretary against U.S. bases in Philippines

The Philippines may opt to remove the U.S. military bases in that country and use the facilities for commercial purposes, Filipino Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said in

an interview published Feb. 2. Alternatively, it may retain just one of the two installations, Clark Airfield or Subic Bay naval station, Manglapus told the *Philippines Daily Globe*.

He said that he personally is against renewal of the agreement establishing the U.S. military bases, which expires in 1991. President Corazon Aquino, he said, no longer believes that the bases are essential to protect the air and sea lanes of Southeast Asia.

"There is no longer that unequivocal commitment to a hard anti-communist and U.S. alignment posture that I had to defend in the 1950s when I was foreign affairs undersecretary, for what we thought then to be valid reasons," Manglapus said.

U.S. deserts allies in Afghan accord

The United States will not support Pakistan's demands for an interim government to be established in Kabul before a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, a senior U.S. official said Feb. 22. His statement made Afghan resistance leaders furious.

"We wouldn't want to miss the bus. We've been trying to get the Soviets out for years, and it would be wrong to tell them to stick around until the Afghans work out a political settlement," the unidentified U.S. official told journalists traveling from Moscow to Brussels with Secretary of State George Shultz.

The statement is a clear indication that what happens in the region will be strictly up to the superpowers, not the peoples involved.

One day after the American official's statement, Afghan resistance leaders proposed a peace settlement based on a transitional government for "the Islamic State of Afghanistan," in which they would hold half of 28 cabinet seats. Alliance chief Yunis Khalis said that they unanimously rejected any coalition with "communists." The statement said that one-quarter of cabinet seats would go to representatives of the 5 million Afghan refugees, and another quarter to "Muslims now living in Afghanistan."

The plan also proposed a 75-member consultative council and an elected constituent assembly.

Khalis indicated that the alliance chiefs had agreed on the names of the leaders of the transition government, all drawn from the alliance, but would not make their list public until the United States, Pakistan, and perhaps even the Soviet Union, had agreed to accept them unconditionally. "We have a cabinet, we have leaders. We wait for assurance from the world that they accept them."

The guerrilla plan proposes elections under Islamic law within six months after Soviet withdrawal, and creation of a U.N. force to supervise the Soviet troop withdrawal.

A Western official who met with the leaders said they had reported a recent decline in the flow of military aid from the United States, which they attributed to a deal between the superpowers.

Thatcher fears threat to NATO

"Thatcher is preparing a counterattack against Soviet calls for a nuclear-free Europe," reports the lead article in Feb. 23's London *Independent*, which cites the British prime minister's concern over the "sophisticated" and "seductive" post-INF advances of the "Soviet bear."

The paper cites a Feb. 19 background briefing at Margaret Thatcher's office expressing "concern that public perception of the Soviet threat is being eroded" after the INF treaty, and "this is a direct threat to NATO itself."

Thatcher told NATO ambassadors in Brussels recently that a "return to open cold war" could not be ruled out. "If you make a mistake now, it may not affect our generation, but it may affect future generations," she said on British television.

According to a senior British source, "Thatcher is extremely concerned that morale and motivation in NATO are rapidly slipping downhill since the INF treaty." The source added that her recent private and pub-

lic statements are "timed to give additional support to those who cast doubt on the 'new sunrise' coming out of Moscow. . . . She fears the Germans, in particular, seem to be prone to extending the process of limiting and reducing nuclear weapons, including tactical ones."

Soviets capitalize on U.S. Panama policy

The Soviet Union and Cuba are moving rapidly to make as much political capital as possible out of the insane policy of the United States toward Panama. Below are just a few of the indications:

- The World Federation of Trade Unions (Moscow-controlled) has just sent a delegation to Panama to meet with the Communist-run trade union confederation, the CNTP.

- The head of the Communist-run trade union confederation in Peru, the CGTP, is organizing a mobilization to support Panama and its beleaguered armed forces commander, Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, indicted in Miami on trumped-up drug-running charges.

- The Radio Moscow broadcast beamed to Ibero-America Feb. 11 said that the charges against Noriega threaten to boomerang and become a scandal for the U.S. administration, discrediting Noriega's accusers.

- A Feb. 12 TASS wire contained a lengthy defense of Noriega, charging that the United States wants a puppet regime that would continue the U.S. military presence in Panama and abrogate the Carter-Torrijos treaties that give Panama sovereignty over the Canal Zone in the year 2000.

High-ranking Soviet visits Saudi Arabia

For the first time in more than 30 years, a high-ranking Soviet diplomat has visited Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, for talks with Saudi officials. Vladimir Polyakov, di-

rector of the Middle East department of the Soviet foreign ministry, arrived in Saudi Arabia Feb. 22.

Polyakov made the stop as part of an extended tour of the region which has included Iraq, Jordan, Syria, and Egypt.

His tour coincided with a six-day visit to Iran by Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky, which ended on Feb. 17. Petrovsky was carrying a letter from Gorbachov to Iranian parliamentary leader Khamenei on the issue of Afghanistan.

Another Soviet envoy, Oleg Grinevsky, was in Baghdad, Iraq at the same time to discuss the Afghanistan issue.

Meanwhile, a Soviet military delegation led by Gen. V.N. Mikhalkhin, chief of the air-missiles defense system of the ground forces, was in Jordan for ground-breaking ceremonies at a SAM-8 air-defense installation on Feb. 17.

Eban in Washington, attacks Shamir

Former Israeli foreign minister and senior statesman Abba Eban was in Washington the week of Feb. 15. He appeared on CBS-TV to discuss the crisis in the Israeli-occupied territories.

He explicitly endorsed the idea "of an interim solution in which Israel would disengage from the task of administering the territories; and the idea of a permanent solution based on the only valid principle, which is [the exchange of] territory for peace." He said that "a very large section of the Israeli electorate and the Israeli establishment" agree with him.

Eban called Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir a "hypochondriac" for opposing an international peace conference. Seeing "new opportunities" in the current situation, he stated that, with a U.S. initiative, "I believe that in the end, and I believe in the early end, our people will opt for rationality and reason and for liberating Israel from the stranglehold of an occupation which is doing much more harm to Israel's interests and vision and image and solidarity and social cohesion than it is to anybody else."

Briefly

- **HELMUT KOHL** conferred with Soviet agent Armand Hammer "privately," before the official part of his visit to Washington in mid-February, shortly after he was welcomed at Dulles Airport by Secretary of State George Shultz.

- **DR. MANFRED FRISCH** of Saarbruecken, West Germany, was arrested Feb. 18 for the "mercy killing" of an 82-year-old woman. "The woman did not have any hopeless disease. The woman was healthy for her age," according to prosecutors. She was not in serious pain, but "was senile, and a request for mercy killing could not be taken seriously by doctors."

- **FRENCH POLICE** dismantled the French Basque terrorist group, Iparetarrak, in a spectacular Feb. 19-20 nighttime raid. The police arrested the heads of the group, including its top leader, former seminary student Philippe Bidart.

- **A COMMUNIST** has been elected to an executive position in a labor union in West Germany for the first time. Peter Raane joined the board of the Wood and Plastics Union Feb. 20.

- **A MUSLIM** convert has been elected head of the Spanish Communist Party. Julio Anguita immediately named 17 members of the communist CCOO trade union to the Central Committee and another Muslim Convert, the mayor of Cordoba. He said he would break with the Socialist government and take the party "out in the streets." His power base is Andalusia, one of the most backward areas in the Western world.

- **SPANISH** Socialist government officials are now admitting that "talks" began in mid-February with the leadership of the ETA Basque terrorist organization in Algeria. The ETA demands nationhood for the Basque region.